United Nations A/57/314

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 August 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Item 78 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/59 of 10 December 2001, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Commends* the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories for its efforts in performing the tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly and for its impartiality;
>
> "2. *Demands* that Israel cooperate with the Special Committee in implementing its mandate;
>
> "3. *Deplores* those policies and practices of Israel which violate the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, as reflected in the reports of the Special Committee covering the reporting period;
>
> "4. *Expresses grave concern* about the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, as a result of Israeli practices and measures, and especially condemns the excessive use of force in the past year which has resulted in more than seven hundred Palestinian deaths and tens of thousands of injuries;

* A/57/150.
** This document is submitted late so as to include the most up-to-date information possible.

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"5. *Requests* the Special Committee, pending complete termination of the Israeli occupation, to continue to investigate Israeli policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, especially Israeli lack of compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and to consult, as appropriate, with the International Committee of the Red Cross according to its regulations in order to ensure that the welfare and human rights of the peoples of the occupied territories are safeguarded and to report to the Secretary-General as soon as possible and whenever the need arises thereafter;

"6. *Also requests* the Special Committee to submit regularly to the Secretary-General periodic reports on the current situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem;

"7. *Further requests* the Special Committee to continue to investigate the treatment of prisoners in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(*a*) To provide the Special Committee with all necessary facilities, including those required for its visits to the occupied territories, so that it may investigate the Israeli policies and practices referred to in the present resolution;

(*b*) To continue to make available such additional staff as may be necessary to assist the Special Committee in the performance of its tasks;

(*c*) To circulate regularly to Member States the periodic reports mentioned in paragraph 6 above;

(*d*) To ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee that are no longer available;

(*e*) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the tasks entrusted to him in the present resolution;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled 'Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories'."

2. All necessary facilities were provided to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Arrangements were made for the Special Committee to meet on 20 and 21 June 2002. Furthermore, the Special Committee carried out a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic from 23 June to 6 July 2002.

3. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 56/59, the Department of Public Information undertook the following activities:

(a) The revised and updated version of the Department's publication entitled *The Question of Palestine and the United Nations*, contains extensive references to the reports of the Special Committee, including sections dealing with questions of human rights, settlements and refugees. The book, which was recently cleared for publication, is currently being processed and should soon be available for distribution. Sections of the book will be posted on the United Nations web site;

(b) The reports of the Special Committee were extensively covered by the Department in its daily news coverage. The debates in the Commission on Human Rights and at the General Assembly, referring to the reports, were covered in press releases (English and French) as well as on the United Nations web site;

(c) Electronic copies of the reports of the Special Committee are made available to the public by the Department's Public Inquiries Unit upon request and to the delegations by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library.

4. On 10 June 2002, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to all Member States drawing attention to resolutions 56/59, 56/60, 56/61, 56/62 and 56/63 of 10 December 2001.

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Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/60 of 10 December 2001, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"...

"1. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. *Demands* that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, and that it comply scrupulously with the provisions of the Convention;

"3. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 1 common to the four Geneva Conventions, to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for its provisions by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"4. *Reiterates* the need for speedy implementation of the recommendations contained in its resolutions ES-10/3 of 15 July 1997, ES-10/4 of 13 November 1997, ES-10/5 of 17 March 1998, ES-10/6 of 9 February

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1999 and ES-10/7 of 20 October 2000 with regard to ensuring respect by Israel, the occupying Power, for the provisions of the Convention;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 10 June 2002, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Government of Israel inform him of any steps it had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of preparation of the present report.

4. By a note verbale dated 10 June 2002, the Secretary-General also drew the attention of all States parties to the Convention to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 56/60 and paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 56/63.

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Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

Report of the Secretary-General**

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 56/61 of 10 December 2000, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"...

"1. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan are illegal and an obstacle to peace and economic and social development;

"2. *Calls upon* Israel to accept the de jure applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and to the occupied Syrian Golan and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Convention, in particular article 49;

"3. *Demands* complete cessation of the construction of the settlement in Jabal Abu-Ghneim and of all Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;

"4. *Stresses* the need for full implementation of Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994, in which, among other things, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to

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be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory;

"5. *Reiterates* its call for the prevention of illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, particularly in the light of recent developments;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 10 June 2002, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Government of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Israeli Government inform him of any steps the Government had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.